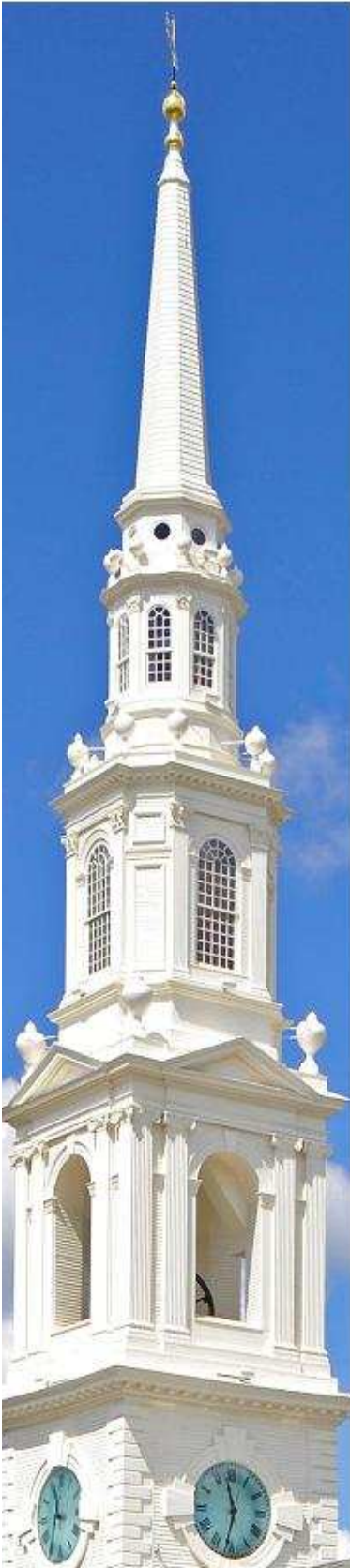


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 15, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 7



Moderator's Minute

Musings on Keeping in Touch

In today's world, there are ways to keep in touch with friends and family that were unheard of less than thirty years ago, such as e-mail, text messages, "tweets" and numerous other social media methods with which I am not familiar. What has suffered as a result of these new technologies is the art of letter writing. As a historian I rue that fact, since what individuals in my profession, among other things, do is study the writings of past people, including their formal and personal correspondence. What will historians of the future read from people of our time?

Recently I was going through a box of what I thought were old pictures that my Philadelphia cousins had sent me after my Aunt Kay, my dad's younger sister, had passed away six years' ago. I found my dad's First Communion picture, which is just precious, as well as many photos from his days in the Army Air Corps during World War II. But my aunt had also saved many letters that he had sent her over the decades and it was fascinating to read them—it was him speaking to her and me becoming reacquainted with him.

That in turn got me thinking about my old-fashioned propensity to still write letters to friends and family scattered about the country and in Europe. I write more letters than I ever receive, but that has never mattered to me. To me the time and energy spent thinking about what to write and then doing it is as if I were speaking to that loved one in person. From my perspective writing a letter has always topped chatting on the phone. (Writing e-mails does not have the same feel either, although I have to say people who never write letters are somewhat more prone to the occasional e-mail.) Letter writing is not only the thought process, but it also involves the choice of stationery or a card that fits the person you are thinking about—the cute cat, the historic ruin, the floral arrangement, or the pop art design. What would that person enjoy seeing along with your greetings? Receiving a letter from a dear friend or family member is like getting a present.

In the spirit of our caring Christian community, my challenge to my family of friends at FBCIA is to write a letter to someone this week. It could be an old school friend, a distant relative, a former FBCIA member who has moved away . . . whomever you choose. It will be interesting to see what kind of responses you get. Do not forget the postage stamp!



Joanne

Christian Education

Upcoming Sunday Morning Forums

The Christian Education Committee has planned forums until the end of May when we move on to our summer schedule. Although some dates are yet to be finalized we wanted everyone to know what is coming up.

April 17 - Jamie will introduce discussion of what the Bible says about intimacy and marriage/family

April 24 - Ruth and Susan will continue the discussion of intimacy and marriage and its cultural background and how it has evolved.

May 1 - Rev. Kate Harvey will speak on how the denomination/church's view of intimacy and marriage have evolved.

Children's Sunday School

Happy are those who don't see
and yet believe. (John 20:29)

April 17 Matthew 28:16-20

Bible Story: The Great Commission

April 24: Acts 4:32-37

Bible Story: Believers Share

FBCIA News



Colleen & Larry Whelpley spoke to the Adult Forum about Masie and the service dog program. They are trainers for service dogs on weekends. Masie, a black Labrador, is the eighth dog that they have helped to prepare for use by people who



Dr. Jonathan Malone, pastor of the East Greenwich Baptist Church, brought his baptismal class to the Meeting House for a special tour so that the class could learn more about Roger Williams, Baptist principles and practices, and to see the Meeting House itself which is the largest wooden building in America surviving from the Colonial Era.



On Sunday April 10 while Jamie Washam was away at a ministers' retreat, her substitute was Susan Chorley, who serves as the Associate Director and Minister of Programs at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

Missions and Outreach

PICA



Don't forget to bring in your monthly donations for the PICA Food Pantry. When you do your shopping, place your donated items in a separate shopping bag and leave them in the car so that you won't forget to bring them to church.

Come! To PICA's Annual Gala.

Support PICA's work with the homeless, low income people and enjoy a memorable evening. All money raised will assist in our intensive case management program, in stocking our two food pantries and the Friday night meal site. We feed over 17,000 individuals in the two food pantries. The Gala takes place on May 7th at the Imperial Ballroom, One Rhodes Plaza in Cranston. Silent Auction at 5:30PM, dinner at 7:00PM, and music by MIXCRA. Ron Watts, founder of our Outreach Program, will be honored. Tickets are \$50.00 and may be purchased at the door or by calling 454-7422.

REFUGEE FAMILIES



Last Sunday, Eva asked for a \$20 donation so that she could buy 2 laudromat cards to be used by one of our refugee families.

She received \$122 in donations, enough to buy 12 cards! Thank you so much for your generosity.



We are beginning to stock emergency items needed for our refugee families. Here are items to contribute:

1. Toiletries: soap, deodorant, Vaseline, skin lotion, baby diapers,
2. Personal hygiene: sanitary pads, toilet tissue, Kleenex, toothpaste, tooth brushes,
3. Laundry detergent, laundry baskets, towels.
4. Toys, writing material, drawing books, crayons, easy pictorial books for reading
5. Food storage containers

ABCORI



Please join us to view the documentary "A Place at the Table" at the Community Church of Providence on Saturday, April 23rd. 50 million

Americans – 1 in 4 children – don't know where their next meal is coming from. This film tells the stories of 3 Americans who are struggling to find enough to eat. After the film, Emily Jones of the Interfaith Coalition will offer ways that we can advocate for the hungry and impoverished in our state.

The program will start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 11. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

“Scribbles” from Friday Seekers

Last Friday’s program at SEEKERS turned out to be a wonderful improvisation by THE TWO STEVES. We were taken back years and years with music of a spiritual realm as well as more contemporary compositions. If one of the musicians named a key, the other one was quick to “bring out a tune” in harmony with that key. That is such an art and these two really have it. Our Hats Off to Steve Martorella and Steve Unruh for a wonderful musical evening – one that was pure music with no preparation beforehand. Few of us can do that!

On behalf of FRIDAY SEEKERS’, I would like to thank OUR TWO STEVES for their entertainment; to Holly and Dave for the set up and to all of those who contributed to the Pot Luck.



On April 22, I invite you to share with Edgar and me, our 30th Anniversary trip to Oahu – the theme for FRIDAY SEEKERS that night. This will take place at our Apartment Building – at 1 Regency Plaza. I will give you directions to get there and it may be a good idea to think of car pooling – from the church to our place.



Mark your calendars for APRIL 22, 2016

Meet at Building 1 of Regency Plaza at 6 p.m.

Pot Luck supper at 6:30 p.m.

Program at 7:00 p.m.

REMEMBER – THIS WILL NOT BE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Sign up sheet on our FRIDAY SEEKER’S BULLETIN BOARD

More details and directions to follow, as well as RECIPES FOR HAWAIIAN FOOD.

Dianne Thyret

FRIDAY SEEKERS’ COORDINATOR



Beaver Day

MAY 21st

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Canonicus

With all this winter weather, Canonicus is in need of helping hands to help clear debris and prepare the shelters for the campers and staff.

If interested in helping, please call Kevin at 294-6318 x 107 or email him at

kevinfelser77@gmail.com

The First Baptist Church in America
75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-454-3418
Fax: 401-421-4095
E-Mail: fbc.inamerica@verizon.net
Web: www.fbcia.org

Jamie Washam, Pastor
Stephen T. Martorella, Minister of Music
Holly B. Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
David Michel, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

Sunday Calendar

Sun. April 17	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Forum	
	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Sermon:	“In That Case, Make Mine a BLT, Please ”
		Scripture:	Luke 24:12-21
		Worship Leader:	Mary Alice Kleiber
		Greeters:	Alice Miles and Lee McDaniel
		Ushers:	Joanne Schneider and Art Bone
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Elsa Grieder
Sun. April 24	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Forum	
	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Robert Douglass
		Greeters:	Donna Campopiano and Richard Aubin
		Ushers:	Mark Hall and Frank Nicholson
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Richard Aubin

Announcement

There will be a Quarterly Business Meeting and deli luncheon this Sunday, April 17th after Worship at 12:15 PM